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EXAMINER	
BELANI, KISHIN G	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/824,811	CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KISHIN G. BELANI	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 December 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10 and 12-35* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10 and 12-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 12/26/2007. **Independent Claim 1** has been amended. **Independent claims 24, 30 and 33** and **dependent claims 2-10, 12, 13, 16-20, 22, 23, 25-28, 31 and 32** are presented **in the original form**. **Dependent claim 11** has been **cancelled**. **Dependent claims 14, 15 and 29** have also been **amended**. In addition, **dependent claims 21, 34 and 35** have been **amended to correct minor informalities**. **Claims 1-10 and 12-35** are now **pending** in the present application. The applicants' arguments are shown in ***bold and italics***, and the examiner's response to the arguments is shown in **bold** in this office action. **This Action is made FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness
or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1),** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1).**

Consider **claim 1**, Marston et al. show and disclose a method for automatically saving instant messaging transcripts to a searchable repository connected by the Internet to a plurality of computers (Abstract which discloses that a contents module stores data describing the content of each instant message and its sub-messages; Fig. 1 that shows contents module 130, saving the contents of an instant message session

between two client applications 112A and 112B; paragraph 0010, lines 1-5 disclose the same details; paragraph 0018 that discloses a relational data store for saving message contents of an instant messaging system 100 (S-Mail); paragraphs 0019 and 0034 which disclose that the network links 124A-124B between the clients 112A-112B and the relational messaging system 110 utilize the Internet (TCP/IP) protocols, thereby disclosing clients 112A-112B connecting to the Internet) comprising:

responsive to a user specifying a topic (Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 that includes Subject, thereby disclosing a topic being specified; paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" as a property of a Sub-message);

attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript (Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 to which a subject (topic) tag is attached corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript); and

saving the segment to the searchable repository (Fig. 1, database module 114 that stores message contents 130; paragraph 0021, lines 1-5 disclose the same details).

However, Marston et al. do not disclose attaching a topic tag to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata.

In the same field of endeavor, Freedman et al. show and disclose using metadata XML tags (Fig. 1, interaction metadata 14; Fig. 3, Chat Meta data 26, paragraph 0038, lines 5-9 and lines 25-29 and paragraph 0044, lines 5-10 that disclose metadata associated with the corresponding content data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a

segment of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Freedman et al. in the method of Marston et al., so as to be able to associate message content with the corresponding metadata for subsequent web-based processing programs.

However, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. do not specifically disclose ***automatically*** attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript (only the highlighted feature of the claimed text in not disclosed).

In the same field of endeavor, Stark et al. disclose the claimed method, including ***automatically*** attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript **(Fig. 4 that shows a method for delivering messages using the MessageML system; paragraphs 0014-0017 which disclose that the MessageML system uses XML and processes messages based on the meaning of their content, using a set of attributes (topic tags) that convey what the message's content means; further disclosing automatic self-organization of messages; paragraph 0016 further disclosing that MessageML messages contain embedded XML tags that describe certain attributes of that message, such as message type attribute that disclose the type of activity the message represents (e.g. Travel Itinerary); paragraph 0017 further disclosing that the MessageML system can also be used for instant messaging applications; paragraph 0045 also disclosing event classes (segments) such as "Flight Cancellation", "Itinerary Change" within an activity class "Travel Itinerary" activity and storing the tagged messages on the Informant's web server, thus disclosing automatically attaching**

a topic tag ("Travel Itinerary") corresponding to the topic to a segment ("Flight Cancellation") of an instant messaging transcript).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to automatically attach a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Stark et al., in the method of Marston et al. as modified by Freedman et al., so as to be able to associate message content with the corresponding metadata for subsequent web-based processing programs.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further show and disclose the claimed method specifying an identifier and attaching the identifier to an instant message transcript as an identifier metadata (In Marston et al. reference, Fig. 2, Current Sub-message 16 that shows "Author" being specified as an identifier of the sub-message; paragraph 0037 that discloses "Author" as one of the property of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further show and disclose the claimed method, comprising searching the repository for the topic tag and responsive to finding the topic tag, displaying the segment (In Marston et al. reference, Fig. 5, Submessages table with Subject field 7 as a topic tag; Fig. 2, History Submessage 18, showing the Body of the message being displayed based on the selected Subject; paragraph 0041

that discloses a pointer to the location in the database of the current sub-message, when the S-Mail is received and viewed by the recipient, the system 110 retrieves the current message (using the pointer) from the database 114, and displays it).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising scanning instant messaging transcripts in the repository for a segment with the identifier metadata, responsive to finding a segment with the identifier metadata, sending a notification to an addressee on an alert notification list (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, that discloses using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the identifier metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine provide the user with the results; in Marston et al. reference, paragraphs 0055 and 0056 that disclose priority associated with each client, whereby an urgent S-Mail might result in the recipient receiving an immediate email or other alert notification; paragraph 0037 that lists "Author" identifier as one of the property of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising scanning instant messaging transcripts in the repository for a segment with the identifier metadata, responsive to finding a segment with the identifier metadata,

exporting the segment to a pre-designated addressee (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, lines 32-36 that disclose using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the identifier metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine are used by or exported to the applications (requesting clients); in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0037 that lists "Author" identifier as one of the property of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising scanning instant messaging transcripts in the repository for a segment with the topic tag metadata; responsive to finding a segment with the topic tag metadata, sending a notification to an addressee on an alert notification list (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, that discloses using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the topic tag metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine provide the user with the results; in Marston et al. reference, paragraphs 0055 and 0056 that disclose priority associated with each client, whereby an urgent S-Mail might result in the recipient receiving an immediate email or other alert notification; paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" identifier as one of the property (topic tag) of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 7**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising scanning instant messaging transcripts in the repository for a segment with the topic tag metadata, responsive to finding a segment with the topic tag metadata, exporting the segment to a pre-designated addressee (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, lines 32-36 that disclose using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the topic tag metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine are used by or exported to the applications; in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" identifier as one of the property (topic tag) of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 8**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, wherein the searchable repository is on a client computer (in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0019, lines 9-14 and paragraph 0020, lines 1-4 which disclose that the relational messaging system may be implemented on a conventional computer system, thereby disclosing that the searchable repository can reside on a client computer).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, wherein the searchable repository is on a server computer (in Marston et al. reference,

paragraph 0019, lines 5-9 which disclose that the relational messaging system 110 may be implemented on a remote web server).

Consider **claims 10**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, wherein the identifier comprises user characteristics (in Marston et al. reference, Fig. 2, Current Sub-message 16 that shows "Author" being specified as an identifier of the sub-message; paragraph 0037 that discloses "Author" as one of the property of a sub-message, thereby disclosing that the identifier comprises user characteristics).

Consider **claim 12**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising specifying that all instant message transcripts will be saved and providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts to the repository (in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0022, lines 7-16 which disclose that the contents module 130 stores each sub-message as a discrete object that can be individually referenced, thereby providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts to the repository).

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and

further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Robarts et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2006/0277474 A1).**

Consider **claim 13**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except specifying that instant message transcripts will be saved according to a selection criteria, and providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts meeting the criteria.

In the same field of endeavor, Robarts et al. show and disclose specifying that instant message transcripts will be saved according to a selection criteria, and providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts meeting the criteria (Fig. 3, Characterization Module 310, Filter 126 and Message 304; flowchart of Fig. 5, Filter blocks 504 and 506 and Store Message block 518; paragraph 0092 that disclose applying filter criteria to incoming message and then either presenting immediately to the user or saving them for later presentation).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to save incoming messages according to a selection criteria, and provide for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts meeting the criteria, as taught by Robarts et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to selectively save the messages based on user's criteria, thereby reducing storage requirements to save all incoming messages.

Claims 14, 15 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Herf et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2005/0021624 A1).**

Consider **claim 14**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except determining whether a turn has occurred, and responsive to determining whether a turn has occurred, determining whether a topic shift has occurred.

In the same field of endeavor, Herf et al. disclose ***automatically*** determining whether a turn has occurred, and responsive to determining whether a turn has occurred, ***automatically*** determining whether a topic shift has occurred (paragraph 0026, lines 1-6 which disclose that a "snapshot" of the state of the system may be taken when each comment is made (to detect whether a turn has occurred), and if the snapshot has changed substantially since the previous line in the conversation, the change is indicated with a thumbnail representing the change (determining whether a topic shift has occurred); paragraph 0027, lines 6-10 and paragraph 0054 also disclose the same details**; paragraph 0023 which discloses an embodiment of the claimed invention that automatically tracks when a chat participant has changed focus to**

a different media item, such as a different picture (automatically detecting that a turn has occurred), and causes that media, in association with corresponding chat text, on another chat participant's terminal (automatically determining a topic shift); paragraphs 0031 and 0034 disclose the same details).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to automatically determine whether a turn has occurred, and responsive to determining whether a turn has occurred, and automatically determine whether a topic shift has occurred, as taught by Herf et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to mark different topics of discussion in order to later identify and understand which topics were discussed during the session.

Consider **claim 15**, and **as it applies to claim 14 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, ***automatically*** identifying a new topic, and ***automatically*** attaching the new topic marker to a topic segment corresponding to ~~the~~ ***a*** chat transcript following the new topic marker.

In the same field of endeavor, Herf et al. disclose responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, ***automatically*** identifying a new topic, and ***automatically*** attaching the new topic marker to a topic segment corresponding to the chat transcript following the new topic marker (paragraph 0026, lines 1-6 which disclose that a "snapshot" of the state of the system may be taken when each comment is made, and if

the snapshot has changed substantially since the previous line in the conversation, the change is indicated with a thumbnail (new topic marker) representing the change; paragraph 0027, lines 6-10 and paragraph 0054 also disclose the same details; **paragraph 0023 which discloses an embodiment of the claimed invention that automatically tracks when a chat participant has changed focus to a different media item, such as a different picture (automatically identifying a new topic), and causes that media, in association with corresponding chat text, on another chat participant's terminal (automatically attaching the new topic marker to a topic segment corresponding to the chat transcript following the new topic marker); paragraphs 0031 and 0034 disclose similar details**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to responsive to automatically determining that a topic shift has occurred, identifying a new topic, and automatically attaching the new topic marker to a topic segment corresponding to the chat transcript following the new topic marker, as taught by Herf et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to mark different topics of discussion in order to later identify and understand which topics were discussed during the session.

Consider **claim 29**, and **as it applies to claim 24 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except ***automatically*** determining whether a turn has occurred, and responsive to ***automatically*** determining ~~whether~~ ***when*** a turn has occurred, determining whether a

topic shift has occurred; responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, ***automatically*** identifying a new metadata, and ***automatically*** attaching the new metadata to a second segment.

In the same field of endeavor, Herf et al. disclose ***automatically*** determining whether a turn has occurred, and responsive to ***automatically*** determining when a turn has occurred, determining whether a topic shift has occurred (paragraph 0026, lines 1-6 which disclose that a "snapshot" of the state of the system may be taken when each comment is made (to detect whether a turn has occurred), and if the snapshot has changed substantially since the previous line in the conversation, the change is indicated with a thumbnail representing the change (determining whether a topic shift has occurred); paragraph 0027, lines 6-10 and paragraph 0054 also disclose the same details**; paragraph 0023 which discloses an embodiment of the claimed invention that automatically tracks when a chat participant has changed focus to a different media item, such as a different picture (automatically identifying a new topic), and causes that media, in association with corresponding chat text, on another chat participant's terminal (automatically attaching the new topic marker to a topic segment corresponding to the chat transcript following the new topic marker); paragraphs 0031 and 0034 disclose similar details**);
responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, ***automatically*** identifying a new metadata, and ***automatically*** attaching the new metadata to a second segment (paragraph 0026, lines 1-6 which disclose that a "snapshot" of the state of the system may be taken when each comment is made, and if the snapshot has changed

substantially since the previous line in the conversation, the change is indicated with a thumbnail (new metadata) representing the change; paragraph 0027, lines 6-10 and paragraph 0054 also disclose the same details; **also paragraph 0034 which further discloses a "Sync" mode that automatically follows the remote user's focus, updating a local user's view (new metadata) whenever the remote user changes its focus, thereby disclosing that responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, automatically identifying a new metadata, and automatically attaching the new metadata to a second segment**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to automatically determine whether a turn has occurred, responsive to automatically determining when a turn has occurred, automatically determine whether a topic shift has occurred; and responsive to determining that a topic shift has occurred, automatically identifying a new metadata and automatically attaching the new metadata to a second segment, as taught by Herf et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to mark different topics of discussion in order to later identify and understand which topics were discussed during the session.

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and

further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Stanford et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,615,296).**

Consider **claim 16**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except displaying a prompt asking a user to identify a topic.

In the same field of endeavor, Stanford et al. disclose displaying a prompt asking a user to identify a topic (column 6, lines 13-17 that disclose a prompt followed by a list of topics being displayed for the user to select a topic from the list).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display a prompt asking a user to identify a topic, as taught by Stanford et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to assist a user in starting a communication session.

Consider **claim 17**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except displaying a list of available pre-designated topics for user selection.

In the same field of endeavor, Stanford et al. disclose displaying a list of available pre-designated topics for user selection (column 6, lines 13-17 that disclose a prompt followed by a list of topics being displayed for the user to select a topic from the list).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display a list of available pre-designated topics for

user selection, as taught by Stanford et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to assist a user in starting a communication session.

Consider **claim 18**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, distinguishing the topic tag.

In the same field of endeavor, Stanford et al. disclose presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, distinguishing the topic tag (column 6, lines 40-54 that disclose a computer assisted advice program for video tape rentals that presents a topic tag (video tape rentals) to a user for review, and then distinguishing the topic tag with different video types (western, comedy, action adventure, mystery, etc.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, distinguishing the topic tag, as taught by Stanford et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to assist a user in making desired selection from a number of available options.

Consider **claim 19**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, accepting the topic tag.

In the same field of endeavor, Stanford et al. disclose presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, accepting the topic tag (column 6, lines 40-54 that disclose a computer assisted advice program for video tape rentals that presents a topic tag (video tape rentals) to a user for review, followed by a listing of different video types to choose from (western, comedy, action adventure, mystery, etc.), and then accepting user's selection of "Action Adventure".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, accept the topic tag, as taught by Stanford et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to assist a user in making desired selection from a number of available options.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Rapaport et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 7,034,691 B1).**

Consider **claim 20**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, and the user failing to distinguish the topic tag or to accept the topic tag, entering a default topic tag.

In the same field of endeavor, Rapaport et al. disclose presenting a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, and the user failing to distinguish the topic tag or to accept the topic tag, entering a default topic tag (column 25, lines 36-39 which disclose that each topic attribute may further include one or more default topic prompt specification.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present a topic tag to a user for review, and responsive to the user reviewing the topic tag, and the user failing to distinguish the topic tag or to accept the topic tag, enter a default topic tag, as taught by Rapaport et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to assist a user in making initial topic selection.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420**

A1) and further in view of **Briere (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2006/0074727 A1).**

Consider **claim 21**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except displaying ***a plurality of*** search results to the user, and obtaining a feedback regarding the ***plurality of*** search ***results*** from the user.

In the same field of endeavor, Briere discloses displaying the search results to the user, and obtaining a feedback regarding the search from the user (paragraphs 0084 and 0085 that disclose searching various databases using query parameters provided by a user and presenting search results to the user using tabs on a display screen; paragraph 0155 which discloses that reports are generated based on user feedback and information requirements.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the search results to the user, and obtaining a feedback regarding the search from the user, as taught by Briere in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users the information they are looking for.

Claims 22, 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650**

A1) and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Khosla et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 7,177,817 B1).**

Consider **claim 22**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except wherein the steps of specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer.

In the same field of endeavor, Khosla et al. disclose a method wherein the steps of specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer (column 6, lines 32-35 which disclose that subject tags are used to directly access a topic and that they can be manually entered or automatically generated).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a method for specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer, as taught by Khosla et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Consider **claim 31**, and **as it applies to claim 30 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed program product, except wherein the step of prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium.

In the same field of endeavor, Khosla et al. disclose a program product wherein the step of prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium (claims 16-18; column 6, lines 32-35 which disclose that subject tags are used to directly access a topic and that they can be manually entered or automatically generated).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a program product for prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium, as taught by Khosla et al., in the program product of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Consider **claim 34**, and **as it applies to claim 33 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed system, except wherein the first instruction is replaced with a fourth instruction for prompting the user to select an automatic process, and responsive to the user selecting an automatic process, a fifth instruction to cause the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment.

In the same field of endeavor, Khosla et al. disclose a system with instructions for prompting the user to select an automatic process, and responsive to the user selecting an automatic process, and causing the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment (column 6, lines 32-35 which disclose that subject tags are used to directly access a topic and that they can be manually entered or automatically generated).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prompt the user to select an automatic process, and responsive to the user selecting an automatic process, to cause the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment, as taught by Khosla et al., in the system of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Claims 22, 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Delcambre et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0059566 A1).**

Consider **claim 22**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except wherein the steps of specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer.

In the same field of endeavor, Delcambre et al. disclose a method wherein the steps of specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer (paragraph 0085 that discloses the steps of mapping a topic instance construct in the topic map model to an element type in an XML DTD with an attribute type = "name" in an example topic instance XML tag <topic name = "Van Gogh" /> being performed automatically by a computer).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a method for specifying a topic and attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging

transcript as a topic tag metadata, are performed automatically by a computer, as taught by Delcambre et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Consider **claim 31**, and **as it applies to claim 30 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed program product, except wherein the step of prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium.

In the same field of endeavor, Delcambre et al. disclose a program product wherein the step of prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium (claims 21-40; paragraph 0085 that discloses the steps of mapping a topic instance construct in the topic map model to an element type in an XML DTD with an attribute type = “name” in an example topic instance XML tag <topic name = “Van Gogh” /> being performed automatically by a computer).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a program product for prompting a user to specify a topic is replaced with selecting an automatic process so that the step of attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata is performed automatically by the computer following instructions from the computer-usable medium, as taught by Delcambre et al., in the program product of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Consider **claim 34**, and **as it applies to claim 33 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed system, except wherein the first instruction is replaced with a fourth instruction for prompting the user to select an automatic process, and responsive to the user selecting an automatic process, a fifth instruction to cause the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment.

In the same field of endeavor, Delcambre et al. disclose a system with instructions to cause the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment (paragraph 0085 that discloses the steps of mapping a topic instance construct in the topic map model to an element type in an XML DTD with an attribute type = “name” in an example topic instance XML tag <topic name = “Van Gogh” /> being performed automatically by a computer).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide instructions to cause the processor to automatically create a topic tag metadata and attach the topic tag metadata to an instant messaging transcript segment, as taught by Delcambre et al., in the system of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to provide users automated means for tagging the instant message content.

Claims 23, 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1)** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1)** and further in view of **Stark et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0233420 A1)** and further in view of **Kraft et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0188777 A1).**

Consider **claim 23**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed method, except wherein the step of specifying a topic may take place retrospectively after completion of an instant messaging transcript.

In the same field of endeavor, Kraft et al. disclose a method wherein the step of specifying a topic may take place retrospectively after completion of an instant messaging transcript (paragraph 0090, lines 18-29 that discloses a chat room surveying technique that does not specify a topic at the start of the survey, instead simply posting

questions in various chat rooms and collecting participants' responses; later formatting (including assigning topic) and delivering the survey results to the survey initiator).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retrospectively specify a topic after completion of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Kraft et al., in the method of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to receive unbiased responses from the participants in an instant message session.

Consider **claim 32**, and **as it applies to claim 30 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed program product, except wherein the step of prompting the user to specify a topic is replaced with the step of selecting retrospective identification of a topic, and responsive to selecting retrospective identification of a topic, retrospectively identifying a topic upon completion of an instant messaging transcript.

In the same field of endeavor, Kraft et al. disclose a program product wherein the step of prompting the user to specify a topic is replaced with the step of selecting retrospective identification of a topic, and responsive to selecting retrospective identification of a topic, retrospectively identifying a topic upon completion of an instant messaging transcript (claims 31-37; paragraph 0090, lines 18-29 that discloses a chat room surveying technique that does not specify a topic at the start of the survey, instead simply posting questions in various chat rooms and collecting participants' responses;

later formatting (including assigning topic) and delivering the survey results to the survey initiator).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retrospectively specify a topic after completion of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Kraft et al., in the program product of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to receive unbiased responses from the participants in an instant message session.

Consider **claim 35**, and **as it applies to claim 33 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., show and disclose the claimed system, except wherein the first instruction is replaced with a sixth instruction to prompt the user to select retrospective identification of a topic, and responsive to the user selecting retrospective identification of a topic, a seventh instruction to prompt the user to retrospectively identify a topic upon completion of an instant messaging transcript segment.

In the same field of endeavor, Kraft et al. disclose a system wherein the first instruction is replaced with a sixth instruction to prompt the user to select retrospective identification of a topic, and responsive to the user selecting retrospective identification of a topic, a seventh instruction to prompt the user to retrospectively identify a topic upon completion of an instant messaging transcript segment (paragraph 0090, lines 18-29 that discloses a chat room surveying technique wherein the surveyor does not specify a topic at the start of the survey, instead simply posting questions in various

chat rooms and collecting participants' responses; then later formatting (including assigning topic) and delivering the survey results to the survey initiator).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retrospectively specify a topic after completion of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Kraft et al., in the program product of Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al. and Stark et al., so as to receive unbiased responses from the participants in an instant message session.

Claims 24-28, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Marston et al. (US Patent Application Publication # 2004/0260710 A1),** in view of **Freedman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0249650 A1).**

Consider **claim 24**, Marston et al. show and disclose a method for storing a structured instant message transcript in a repository on a server computer connected to the Internet (Abstract which discloses that a contents module stores data describing the content of each instant message and its sub-messages; Fig. 1 that shows contents module 130, saving the contents of an instant message session between two client applications 112A and 112B; paragraph 0010, lines 1-5 disclose the same details; paragraph 0018 that discloses a relational data store for saving message contents of an instant messaging system 100 (S-Mail); paragraphs 0019 and 0034 which disclose that the network links 124A-124B between the clients 112A-112B and the relational

messaging system 110 utilize the Internet (TCP/IP) protocols, thereby disclosing clients 112A-112B connecting to the Internet; and that the messaging system 110 is installed on a remote web server); and

using a filter in a program on a remote computer, searching the repository for a metadata attached to a segment of the structured instant message (in Marston et al. reference, paragraphs 0084 and 0085 that disclose end-user (client) specified query (filter) on the data in the database 114 of Fig. 1, and the client folders containing the search results; the query using any of several properties such as author and subject of the instant message data in the database).

However, Marston et al. do not explicitly disclose attaching a topic tag to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata.

In the same field of endeavor, Freedman et al. show and disclose using metadata XML tags (Fig. 1, interaction metadata 14; Fig. 3, Chat Meta data 26, paragraph 0038, lines 5-9 and lines 25-29 and paragraph 0044, lines 5-10 that disclose metadata associated with the corresponding content data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach metadata to a segment of the structured instant message, as taught by Freedman et al. in the method of Marston et al., so as to be able to associate message content with the corresponding metadata for subsequent web-based processing programs.

Consider **claim 25**, and **as it applies to claim 24 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al., further show and disclose the claimed method, comprising responsive to finding the metadata, displaying an instant message transcript segment corresponding to the topic tag (Fig. 5, Submessages table with Subject field 7 as a topic tag; Fig. 2, History Submessage 18, showing the Body of the message being displayed based on the selected Subject; paragraph 0041 that discloses a pointer to the location in the database of the current sub-message, when the S-Mail is received and viewed by the recipient, the system 110 retrieves the current message (using the pointer) from the database 114, and displays it).

Consider **claim 26**, and **as it applies to claim 24 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising responsive to finding the metadata, sending a notification to an addressee on an alert notification list (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, that discloses using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the identifier metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine provide the user with the results; in Marston et al. reference, paragraphs 0055 and 0056 that disclose priority (indicative of being on an alert notification list) associated with each client, whereby an urgent S-Mail might result in the recipient receiving an immediate email or other alert notification; paragraph 0037 that lists "Author" identifier as one of the property of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 27**, and **as it applies to claim 24 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising responsive to finding the metadata, exporting the segment to a pre-designated addressee (in Freedman et al. reference, paragraph 0014, lines 32-36 that disclose using interaction metadata associated with interaction information (chat messages) units in an interaction capture and storage component to find a segment with the identifier metadata; the results of the search and analysis made by the analysis engine are used by or exported to the applications (requesting clients); in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0037 that lists "Author" identifier as one of the property of a sub-message).

Consider **claim 28**, and **as it applies to claim 24 above**, Marston et al., as modified by Freedman et al., further disclose the claimed method, comprising specifying that instant message transcripts will be saved according to a selection criteria; and providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts meeting the criteria (in Marston et al. reference, paragraph 0022, lines 7-16 which disclose that the contents module 130 stores each sub-message as a discrete object that can be individually referenced, thereby providing for an automatic saving of all instant messaging transcripts to the repository).

Consider **claim 30**, Marston et al. disclose a program product operable on a computer comprising a computer-usable medium; wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps comprising:
prompting a user to specify a topic (Claims 13-24; Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 that includes "Subject", thereby disclosing a topic being specified; paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" as a property of a Sub-message);
attaching a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata (Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 to which a subject (topic) tag is attached corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript); and
saving the segment to the searchable repository connected to the computer-usable medium by the Internet (Fig. 1, database module 114 that stores message contents 130; paragraph 0021, lines 1-5 disclose the same details).

However, Marston et al. do not disclose attaching a topic tag to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata.

In the same field of endeavor, Freedman et al. show and disclose using metadata XML tags (Fig. 1, interaction metadata 14; Fig. 3, Chat Meta data 26, paragraph 0038, lines 5-9 and lines 25-29 and paragraph 0044, lines 5-10 that disclose metadata associated with the corresponding content data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Freedman et al. in the

program product of Marston et al., so as to be able to associate message content with the corresponding metadata for subsequent web-based processing programs.

Consider **claim 33**, Marston et al. show and disclose a system for saving instant message transcripts (Abstract which discloses that a contents module stores data describing the content of each instant message and its sub-messages; paragraphs 0017-0019 disclose the details of the system) comprising:

a first computer having a first memory and a first processor (paragraph 0020 which discloses that the relational messaging system 110 is implemented on one or more conventional computer (shown as control module 118 and client application interface 116) having processor and memory);

a second computer having a second memory and a second processor connected to the first computer (Fig. 1, client computers 112A and 112B connected to the control module 118 of messaging system 110 via the Internet links 124A and 124B; paragraph 0018, lines 6-9 that disclose 112A and 112B to be computers);

a repository connected to the first computer and the second computer (Fig. 1, contents module 130 acting as a repository connected to the first computer (control module 118) and via the Internet links 124A and 124B to the second (112A and 112B client) computer);

a first instruction in the memory of the first computer to cause the processor to prompt a user to specify a topic for a chat (Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 that includes Subject,

thereby disclosing a topic being specified; paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" as a property of a Sub-message);
responsive to the user specifying a topic for the chat, a second instruction in the memory of the first computer to cause the processor to attach a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata (Fig. 2, current sub-message 16 to which a subject (topic) tag is attached corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript);
a third instruction to save the segment to the searchable repository (Fig. 1, database module 114 that stores message contents 130; paragraph 0021, lines 1-5 disclose the same details).

However, Marston et al. do not disclose attaching a topic tag to a segment of an instant messaging transcript as a topic tag metadata.

In the same field of endeavor, Freedman et al. show and disclose using metadata XML tags (Fig. 1, interaction metadata 14; Fig. 3, Chat Meta data 26, paragraph 0038, lines 5-9 and lines 25-29 and paragraph 0044, lines 5-10 that disclose metadata associated with the corresponding content data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach a topic tag corresponding to the topic to a segment of an instant messaging transcript, as taught by Freedman et al. in the system of Marston et al., so as to be able to associate message content with the corresponding metadata for subsequent web-based processing programs.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-10, 12 and 13-35** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

However, the examiner would like to clarify some remarks made by the applicants about rejection of claim 1 in the non-final office action of 09/24/2007.

The examiner cited Marston, "Fig. 2, sub-message 16, Subject field" as a representative topic (e.g. re: meeting schedule), and paragraph 0037 that lists "Subject" as a property of the sub-message. However, the applicants' remark (A "sub-message" is not a "topic" and appearance of a "sub-message" in a messaging system is not an act of "specifying") indicates that the applicant mistakenly to believe the "sub-message" itself is the topic but rather the "Subject" field within the sub-message 16. The "Subject" field, as shown in the reference, in the sub-message is to specify a topic, not the sub-message. As such, Marston does disclose "a topic" and the act of "specifying", or the limitation of "specifying a topic".

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit: 2143

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-0800.

Kishin G. Belani

K.G.B./kgb

March 18, 2008

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2152